

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending, with claims 1 and 6 being independent. By virtue of this amendment, claims 1, 3, 6 and 8 are amended.

The Examiner objected to claim 8 as being improperly amended. Applicant has properly amended claim 8 above and respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 USC section 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Conroy, et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,459,684, hereinafter "Conroy") in view of *Schwartzman, et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,888,883, hereinafter "Schwartzman").

A telephonic interview was held between the Examiner and Applicant's representative, Paul Churilla, on December 7, 2006. In that interview, the Examiner agreed that the foregoing amendments to independent claims 1 and 6 would require further search and consideration. Accordingly, Applicant is filing a Request for Continued Examination along with this Preliminary Amendment and Interview Summary. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections over Conroy in view Schwartzman of claims 1 and 6 and their respective dependent claims 2-5 and 7-10.

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and requests notification to that effect. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (360-554-8042) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3521.

Respectfully submitted,

Brake Hughes PLC
Phone 360-554-8042

Date: December 7, 2006

By: 

Paul W. Churilla
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 7th day of December, 2006.

Shellie Bailey